Friday, June 30, 1995

OVERVIEW

Weekly earnings decline

Employees' average weekly earnings declined for the second consecutive month in April.

Manufacturing shipments continue to fall

Manufacturers' shipments fell for the third straight month in April. Not since the first quarter of 1991 have shipments fallen three months in a row.

Number of U.I. beneficiaries drops again

In April, the number of Canadians receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits dropped 2.4% from March.

Industrial prices stable

Industrial prices were unchanged in May, as a drop in the value of the U.S. dollar and price declines in lumber and non-ferrous primary metals offset newsprint and gasoline price increases.

Raw material prices down in May

Raw material prices fell in May. The wood sector was the only major raw materials group to see prices rise.

Foreigners spend massively on Canadian securities

In April, foreigners purchased a net \$5.9 billion in Canadian securities, their largest monthly investment since January 1994.

Weekly earnings decline

Average weekly earnings fell to \$570.25 in April, a 0.4% decrease from March and the second consecutive monthly drop. The decline was due mainly to lower earnings for salaried employees and was concentrated in most service industries, particularly in retail and wholesale trade, business services, and finance, insurance and real estate. Average weekly earnings rose in logging and forestry, construction, and transportation, communication and other utilities. Earnings were stable in the mining, quarrying and oil wells industry. Weekly earnings stood 0.8% higher than in April 1994.

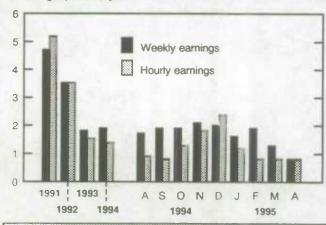
Employees paid by the hour received \$14.21 per hour in April, down marginally from the previous month, although they worked longer hours. The average number of hours worked per week, generally rising during 1994, has settled at 30.8 hours per week to date in 1995.

Businesses employed 24,000 more people in April than in the preceding month. The increases in March and April offset some of the declines experienced since the beginning of the year. Despite these advances,

(continued on page 2)

Weekly and hourly earnings

% change, previous year



... Weekly earnings decline

employment levels were 40,000 lower than the December 1994 peak. Businesses across many industries reported small gains in April, with the largest coming from the manufacturing industry (9,000 employees). The gain in manufacturing was spread across most provinces and was widespread for manufacturers of food, rubber products, clothing, fabricated metals, machinery, and electrical and electronic products.

For further information, order Employment, earnings and hours (catalogue 72-002) or contact Stephen Johnson, Labour Division at (613) 951-4090.

Average weekly earnings, April 1995 Seasonally adjusted

Province/Territory	Industrial aggregate (\$)	% change, previous month	% change previou ye
Canada	570.25	-0.4	0.
Newfoundland	532.17	-2.4	0.0
Prince Edward Island	453.70	-0.6	-1.0
Nova Scotia	494.72	0.7	-0.1
New Brunswick	516.28	0.0	2.0
Quebec	545.04	-0.7	-0.3
Ontario	606.41	-0.6	0.7
Manitoba	499.43	-0.7	0.2
Saskatchewan	489.19	-0.1	0.8
Alberta	553.58	-0.7	0.6
British Columbia	591.99	0.4	3.4
Yukon	666.04	-4.3	-5.1
Northwest Territories	705.90	0.2	-2.4

Manufacturing shipments continue to fall

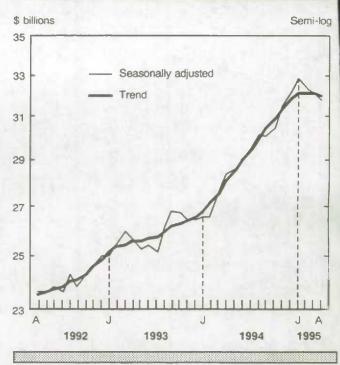
In April, manufacturers' shipments fell for the third consecutive month, led by the ailing motor vehicle industry. Not since the first quarter of 1991 have shipments fallen three months in a row. Seasonally adjusted shipments declined 1.1% to \$31.7 billion. Despite these decreases, shipments were 12% higher than in April 1994. Manufacturers in 16 of the 22 major groups (accounting for 63% of shipments) posted declines, while 6 posted increases.

The largest monthly decline in value was in the transportation equipment industry, where weak North American demand was behind a 3.3% drop. Manufacturers have cut motor vehicle shipments 20.9% since January 1995, and production has been

Manufacturers' Shipments, April 1995 Unadjusted data (Adjusted data not available by province)

Province	\$ millions	% change previous year
Canada	31,148	10.0
Newfoundland	85	-12,2
Prince Edward Island	41	4.8
Nova Scotia	469	2.9
New Brunswick	608	21.2
Quebec	7,524	9.7
Ontario	16,560	10.6
Manitoba	616	7.7
Saskatchewan	401	10.0
Alberta	2,153	10.1
British Columbia	2,689	7.8





slashed to prevent inventories from building. Slumping demand has led to recent rebates and buyer incentives, revised production estimates, shift reductions and plant shutdowns. Additional closures announced for upcoming months will have an adverse effect on future shipments. Meanwhile, slow markets and a price dip resulted in a 4.7% decrease in primary metal shipments.

... Manufacturing shipments continue to fall

Higher prices allowed the refined petroleum and coal industry to post April's largest increase in shipments (5.9%).

Inventories rose 1.1% in April, compared with an average growth of 1.8% over the previous four months. Larger inventories of electrical and electronic products, primary metals, and paper and allied products accounted for the bulk of this increase. Rising inventories and falling shipments led to the highest value in the inventories-to-shipments ratio (1.36) since February 1994. If inventories continue their rapid growth while shipments continue to stumble, manufacturers may be obliged to cut production.

Unfilled orders fell for the first time since November 1993 (-0.4%). New orders decreased 2.6%, following declines in February and March. The decline was due mainly to large drops in transportation equipment and fabricated metal products.

For further information, order Monthly survey of manufacturing (catalogue 31-001) or contact Robert Traversy, Industry Division at (613) 951-9497. (See also "Current trends" on page 9.)

Number of U.I. beneficiaries drops again

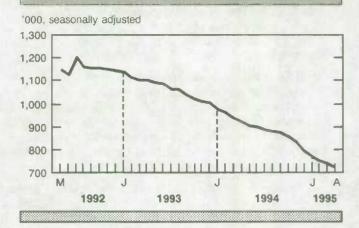
In April, the number of Canadians receiving regular unemployment insurance (U.I.) benefits dropped 2.4% from March, to 721,000. The number of beneficiaries declined throughout the country except in Manitoba and Alberta, and year-over-year decreases were observed across Canada. Since the peak in July 1992, when there were 1.2 million beneficiaries, this number has dropped 40.1%.

Employment levels (as recorded by the Labour Force Survey) have shown little change so far in 1995. The unemployment rate fell in April because fewer people were looking for work. Long-term unemployment levels (those looking for work for more than a year) have remained high into 1995. All this, plus the tighter eligibility requirements introduced in July 1994, suggests that fewer people are eligible for benefits.

U.I. beneficiaries receiving regular benefits, April 1995 Seasonally adjusted

Province/territory	Total ('000)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	721	-2.4	-21.9
Newfoundland	38	-0.3	-28.1
Prince Edward Island	10	-2.3	-17.2
Nova Scotia	38	-2.5	-22.9
New Brunswick	43	-1.7	-18.1
Quebec	250	-2.8	-19.9
Ontario	180	-3.8	-24.9
Manitoba	19	1.7	-20.7
Saskatchewan	15	-1.0	-24.8
Alberta	52	2.5	-15.6
British Columbia	77	-6.1	-23.0
Yukon	1	-0.2	-23.4
Northwest Territories	1	-2.4	-16.0

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits



Note to readers

The majority who collect unemployment insurance benefits receive regular benefits (78.2% in April). In order to qualify for regular benefits, a person must have experienced an interruption of earnings, be capable of and available for work, and be unable to find suitable employment.

In addition to regular benefits, claimants can qualify for special benefits (e.g., training, maternity, sickness and fishing).

Data on the number of beneficiaries relate to a specific week of the reference month. Data on benefit payments, benefit weeks and claims refer to a complete calendar month. Unless otherwise noted, all data are seasonally adjusted.

The number of individuals submitting claims for U.I. fell 1.3% from March. Year-to-date claims are 1.6% lower (unadjusted) than in the same period last year.

(continued on page 4)

... Number of U.I. beneficiaries drops again

Canadians received \$1.3 billion in benefits in April, down 15.7% from April 1994. Comparing the same month in previous years, this was the lowest level since April 1990, when \$1.2 billion was paid.

In April, 44.5% of the male beneficiaries receiving regular benefits had weekly insurable earnings of more than \$600. This compares with 12.6% for female beneficiaries, who receive less benefits on average because benefits are calculated as a percentage of insurable earnings.

The proportion of male beneficiaries wi weekly insurable earnings of \$600 or more increas with age. For males aged 45 and over receiving regular benefits, the proportion was 57.0 compared with 13.9% of females in the same range and age group. For the 24-and-under age group 52.7% of males and 78.7% of females had insurable earnings under \$400. This is partly because moryoung people work part time and in entry lever positions where earnings are lower.

For further information, order Unemployment insurance statistics (catalogue 73-001) or contact Adib Farhat, Labour Division at (613) 951-4045.

Industrial prices stable in May

Industrial prices were unchanged in May, as a drop in the value of the U.S. dollar and price declines in lumber and industrial non-ferrous primary metals offset price increases for newsprint and gasoline. The 12-month change in industrial prices dropped to 8.4% in May, the third decline in the last four months.

The lower U.S. dollar accounted for most of the 0.7% decline in the price level of autos, trucks, and other transport equipment. It also affected exporters of lumber, pulp, paper, and non-ferrous metals. The movement in the U.S. dollar reduced the month-tomonth change in industrial prices from 0.2% (excluding the effect of the exchange rate) to zero.

Lumber, sawmill, and other wood product prices fell a further 1.8% in May. Inventory levels outweighed the effect of any increase in residential construction as interest rates fell in Canada and the United States. Poor auto sales, low residential construction, sales from world metal inventories, and ore discoveries all contributed to the declines in the prices of all the major industrial non-ferrous primary metal products.

An 8.1% jump in newsprint prices accounted for virtually the entire increase in the price level of paper and paper products, which remained the most significant source of upward pressure on industrial prices. World demand for newsprint remains strong and the industry is already operating at full capacity.

Gasoline prices, the other main element exerting upward pressure on industrial prices, increased 3.8%. This jump occurred despite the May decline in crude oil prices.

The 12-month change in industrial prices of consumer goods rose to almost 3.5%. It had been about 3% since January. Over the same period, consumer prices for goods rose 3%. During the first quarter, the operating profits of retailers jumped by over 50%, as the gap between the 12-month change

Industrial product prices

% change, previous year

16
14
12
10
8
6
All industrial products

Finished goods

0
M J J A S O N D J F M A M
1994
1995

Note to readers

The industrial product price index (IPPI) reflects the prices producers receive as goods leave their plants. It is not indicative of what consumers pay. Unlike the consumer price index, the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all costs (including transportation, wholesale, and retail costs) that occur between when a good leaves a plant and when a final user takes possession.

Since Canadian export producers often quote prices in foreign currencies, exchange rate movements affect the IPPI. A 1.0% change in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar changes the IPPI by about 0.2%.

in prices at the consumer and the manufacturer level narrowed. Only about half of what the consumer pays goes to manufacturers.

For further information, order Industry price indexes (catalogue 62-011) or contact Prices Division at (613) 951-3350.

Raw material prices down in May

Raw material prices fell 1.1% between April and May. The year-over-year increase slowed to almost 9% after remaining above 13% for the previous six months.

Wood prices, led by continuing high demand for pulp and paper, rose more than 1% – the only major raw materials group to record a price increase in May. Wood prices rose almost 17% from May 1994. They are expected to stay strong in the near future. Even if there is an economic slowdown in the United States and Canada, wood can be marketed overseas at a price significantly higher than the domestic price.

Non-ferrous metal prices weakened again. Copper led the decline, as the slowing economy and the perception that high copper prices cannot be maintained pushed prices down. Prices for aluminum, nickel, gold, lead, zinc, and platinum were also down.

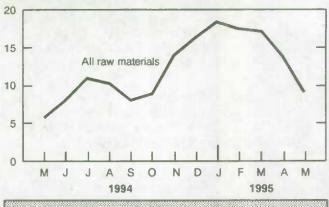
Crude oil prices fell 2% in May after rising nearly every month since December 1994. Higher gasoline inventories reduced somewhat the upward pressure on crude oil prices.

Cattle prices fell again (-5%), bringing the decline since February to almost 13%. Excess supply of available animals and of beef in cold storage caused this weakness. Hog prices rose 6%, as fewer animals than usual were brought to market. May's price increase offset somewhat the 8% drop in hog prices since February.

Vegetable product prices declined almost 1% from April, as higher prices for grains were more than offset by lower prices for oilseeds, unrefined sugar, rubber, and coffee.

Raw material prices

% change, previous year



Note to readers

The raw materials price index (RMPI) reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these are set in the world market. Unlike the industrial product price index, the RMPI includes goods that are not produced in Canada.

For further information, order Industry price indexes (catalogue 62-011) or contact Prices Division at (613) 951-3350.

Foreigners spend massively on Canadian securities

In April, non-residents purchased a massive \$5.9 billion more securities than they sold, the largest monthly investment since January 1994. At the same time, Canadian investors reduced by \$1.0 billion their holdings of foreign securities, driven by a record \$1.3 billion sell-off of foreign bonds. Canadians did, however, continue to purchase foreign stocks. These were split evenly between U.S. and overseas equities.

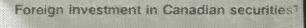
April represented the second consecutive month of heavy foreign buying (\$3.0 billion) of Canadian short-term instruments, concentrated in Government of Canada treasury bills. Encouraged by a firmer Canadian dollar, Asian and European investors collectively purchased \$4.3 billion of money market paper, while U.S. investors sold \$1.3 billion. Trading activity (purchases and sales) fell 25% to \$48 billion following the sharp rise in March.

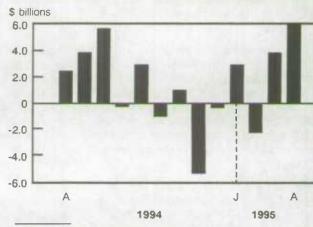
Foreigners made their largest investment in Canadian bonds since July 1994 by purchasing \$3.0 billion in April. New issues remained strong at \$2.9 billion against a background of falling interest rates. The federal government and corporations were the largest issuers, while the provinces, which have led foreign bond borrowings so far this year, were absent. Retirements were modest at \$0.7 billion. Non-residents bought \$0.8 billion in outstanding bonds, in contrast to their general selling over the past two years.

... Foreigners spend massively on Canadian securities

Foreign selling of Canadian stocks slowed to a marginal \$0.1 billion in April. This brought to \$2.7 billion their net selling since November 1994. Canadian stock prices, as measured by the TSE 300 Index, registered a small decline. (In contrast, U.S. stock prices continued to rise.) Trading activity fell 17% to \$5.2 billion in April, reversing a similar gain in March.

For further information, order Canada's international transaction in securities (catalogue 67-002) or contact Don Granger, Balance of Payments Division at (613) 951-1864.





¹ Includes bonds, stocks and money market paper.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM JUNE 23 TO JUNE 29, 1995

			Price: Issue/Subscription		
Division/title of publication	Period	Catalogue number	Canada (Cdn.\$)	United States	Other
				US\$	
AGRICULTURE					
The dairy review	April 1995	23-001	14/138	17/166	20/194
INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE					
Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act, Part I: Corporations	1993	61-220	38	46	54
INDUSTRY					
Construction type plywood	April 1995	35-001	6/60	8/72	9/84
Corrugated boxes and wrappers Crude petroleum and natural gas	May 1995	36-004	6/60	8/72	9/84
production	March 1995	26-006	18/180	22/216	26/252
Gas utilities Mineral wool including fibrous glass	March 1995	55-002	16/160	20/200	23/230
insulation Production and disposition of tobacco	May 1995	44-004	6/60	8/72	9/84
products Production, shipments and stocks on hand	May 1995	32-022	6/60	8/72	9/84
of sawmills in British Columbia	April 1995	35-003	8/80	10/96	12/112
Railway carloadings	April 1995	52-001	10/100	12/120	14/140
The sugar situation	May 1995	32-013	6/60	8/72	9/84
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Exports by country					
microfiche version	JanMar. 1995	65-0030XMB	60/200	72/240	84/280
paper version Exports, merchandise trade	JanMar. 1995	65-0030XPB	120/400	145/480	168/560
microfiche version	1994	65-2020MPB	100	120	140
paper version	1994	65-2020XPB	250	300	350
LABOUR					
Unemployment insurance statistics - annual supplement	1995	73-202S	41	50	58
SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY					
Services indicators	1st quarter 1995	63-016	34/112	41/135	48/157
Restaurant, caterer and tavern statistics	September 1994	63-011	7/70	9/84	10/98
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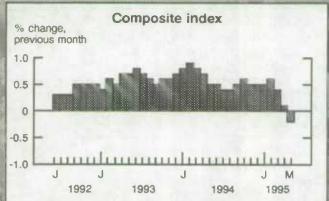
Whether you are interested in dairy production in Quebec or off-farm income in Saskatchewan, ESAS will give you desktop access to all the data. ESAS allows you to trade stacks of printouts for one easy-to-use CD-ROM disk.

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CURRENT TRENDS



Real gross domestic product fell 0.7% in March. First quarter growth was only 0.2%.



In May 1995, the composite index declined 0.2% from the month before.



Consumers paid 2.9% more for goods and services in May 1995 than the year before. Food prices rose by 3.1%.

1994

1995

1992



In May, the unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage points to 9.5%.



Manufacturers' shipments fell 1.1% in April to \$31.7 billion. The level of unfilled orders dropped 0.4% to \$34.3 billion.



The value of merchandise exports fell 0.6% in April, to \$20.5 billion. Imports dropped 0.1% to \$18.8 billion.

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Chang previo ye
GENERAL Gross domestic product (\$ billion, 1986) Composite index (1981=100) Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion)	March	540.2	-0.7%	2.8
	May	173.8	-0.2%	5.0
	1st quarter	23.7	6.2%	42.2
DOMESTIC DEMAND Retail trade (\$ billion) New motor vehicle sales ('000 units)	April	17.5	0.2%	3.2
	April	88.7	-9.2%	-13.9
LABOUR Employment (millions) Unemployment rate (%) Participation rate (%) Labour income (\$ billion) Average weekly earnings (\$)	May May May March April*	13.5 9.5 64.9 34.5 570.25	0.0% 0.1^{\dagger} 0.0^{\dagger} -0.4% -0.4%	1.9 -1.1 -0.4 3.4 0.8
INTERNATIONAL TRADE Merchandise exports (\$ billion) Merchandise imports (\$ billion) Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	April	20.5	-0.6%	19.7
	April	18.8	-0.1%	16.4
	April	1.8	-0.1	0.7
MANUFACTURING Shipments (\$ billion) New orders (\$ billion) Unfilled orders (\$ billion) Inventory/ shipments ratio Capacity utilization (%)	April* April* April* April* 1st quarter	31.7 31.5 34.3 1.36 84.8	-1.1% -2.6% -0.4% 0.03 0.0†	12.0 8.1 11.6 0.0 4.3
PRICES Consumer price index (1986=100) Industrial product price index (1986=100) Raw materials price index (1986=100) New housing price index (1986=100)	May	133.7	0.2%	2.9
	May*	127.7	0.0%	8.4
	May*	132.4	-1.1%	8.9
	April	135.2	-0.1%	-0.7

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.

I.N.F.O.M.A.T

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	KEY RELEAS	E CALENDA	1010192	5,000,000,000,000,000
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	Building permits, May	Help-wanted index, June	Labour force survey, June Estimates of labour income, April
10	New motor vehicle sales, May New housing price index, May	12	Labour force income profiles, 1993	14
Monthly survey of manufacturing, May Composite index, June	Canadian international trade, May Travel between Canada and other countries, May	Consumer price index, June Canada's international transactions in services, 1993-1994	Retail trade, May	Wholesale trade, May
24	Canada's international transactions in securities, May Economic dependency profiles, 1993	Private and public investment in Canada, 1995 revised intentions Unemployment insurance, May	Industrial product price index, June Raw materials price index, June	Employment, earnings and hours, May
Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry, May Health reports, July				

Release dates for International Trade, the Consumer Price Index and the Labour Force Survey are fixed; dates for other data series may change.